

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1.-15. (Canceled)**

**16. (new)** An assembly space of a motor vehicle for receiving operating assemblies, the motor vehicle including a dashboard, a passenger space, an engine space, and a hood designed to cover the engine space, wherein the dashboard separates the passenger space from the engine space, the assembly space comprising:

an access opening pointing towards the hood, wherein the assembly space is mounted in front of the dashboard and is closed all round with the exception of the access opening;

a continuous seal surrounding the access opening all round for gastight sealing relative to the engine space;

an incoming air connection to an air inlet opening arranged in the hood,

a waste air opening which is approximately congruent with a dashboard opening serving as an intake opening of an air consumer in the passenger space;

a water separator; and

a lower shell which covers the air inlet opening and is sealed off relative to the hood and which is disposable onto the continuous seal and, within its region surrounded by the continuous seal, has an air passage opening, wherein the water separator is formed on the lower shell.

17. **(new)** The assembly space of claim 16, wherein the lower shell is fastened to the underside of the hood.

18. **(new)** The assembly space of claim 17, wherein the lower shell is fastened to the underside of the hood in one piece with a hood inner panel.

19. **(new)** The assembly space of claim 17, wherein the water separator has an air guide plate, which projects from the lower shell through the access opening and runs obliquely with respect to the axis of the access opening, and which extends below part of the access opening, and wherein the waste air opening lies near the access opening, behind the rear side, facing away from the air passage opening, of the air guide plate.

20. **(new)** The assembly space of claim 19, wherein the lower shell has a trough-shaped design with an opening and a trough bottom and with a flange-like trough edge surrounding the trough opening, for lying on the continuous seal.

21. **(new)** The assembly space of claim 20, wherein the trough bottom projects in the manner of a lean-to roof having a narrow and a wide roof surface and an underlying roof ridge, through the access opening, wherein the air

passage opening is arranged at a distance from the roof ridge in the narrow roof surface, and wherein the wide roof surface forms the air guide plate.

**22. (new)** The assembly space of claim 21, further comprising a cover that has a peripheral collar and a peripheral flange arranged at one end of the collar and that is arranged between the access opening and the lower shell, wherein the cover lies with its peripheral flange on the continuous seal and, on its collar edge remote from the flange, carries a shell seal, onto which the lower shell can be pressed.

**23. (new)** The assembly space of claim 22, further comprising a space bottom and space walls which project from the space bottom and of which one space wall is formed by the dashboard and the opposite space wall is formed by a partition, running transversely in the engine space, for partitioning off the engine space.

**24. (new)** The assembly space of claim 22, comprising a plastic box closed on all sides and open at the top.

**25. (new)** The assembly space of claim 24, wherein a water outflow is provided in the space bottom.

**26. (new)** The assembly space of claim 23, wherein a water outflow is provided in the space bottom.

27. (new) An assembly space of a motor vehicle for receiving operating assemblies, the motor vehicle including a dashboard, a passenger space, an engine space, and a hood designed to cover the engine space, wherein the dashboard separates the passenger space from the engine space, the assembly space comprising:

an access opening pointing towards the hood, wherein the assembly space is mounted in front of the dashboard and is closed all round with the exception of the access opening;

a continuous seal surrounding the access opening all round for gastight sealing relative to the engine space;

an incoming air connection to an air inlet opening arranged in the hood,

a waste air opening which is approximately congruent with a dashboard opening serving as an intake opening of an air consumer in the passenger space;

a water separator; and

a cover which covers the air inlet opening and which lies on the continuous seal, wherein the cover can be sealed off relative to the hood by means of a continuous hood seal surrounding the air inlet orifice and, within its region surrounded by the continuous seal, has an air passage opening, and wherein the water separator is integrated in the cover.

28. (new) An assembly space of a motor vehicle for receiving operating assemblies, the motor vehicle including a dashboard, a passenger space, an engine space, and a hood designed to cover the engine space, wherein the dashboard separates the passenger space from the engine space, the assembly space comprising:

an access opening pointing towards the hood, wherein the assembly space is mounted in front of the dashboard and is closed all round with the exception of the access opening;

a continuous seal surrounding the access opening all round for gastight sealing relative to the engine space;

an incoming air connection to an air inlet opening arranged in the hood,

a waste air opening which is approximately congruent with a dashboard opening serving as an intake opening of an air consumer in the passenger space;

a water separator;

a lower shell which covers the air inlet opening and is sealed off relative to the hood; and

a cover which can be sealed off relative to the lower shell by a shell seal and which lies on the continuous seal, wherein the water separator is integrated in the cover, and wherein the lower shell, within its region enclosed by the shell seal, has an air passage opening.

29. (new) The assembly space of claim 28, wherein the lower shell is fastened to the underside of the hood and the shell seal is secured to the cover.

30. (new) The assembly space of claim 29, wherein the lower shell has a trough-shaped design with a planar trough bottom and a trough edge surrounding a trough opening in a flange-like manner, for lying on the shell seal, and wherein the air passage opening is arranged in the trough bottom.

31. (new) The assembly space of claim 30, wherein the cover has a peripheral collar and a peripheral flange arranged at one collar edge, and wherein the cover lies with its peripheral flange on the continuous seal and at its collar end remote from the flange carries the shell seal.

32. (new) The assembly space of claim 31, wherein the water separator has an air guide plate which projects from the cover through the access opening and runs obliquely with respect to the axis of the access opening and which extends below a part of the access opening, and wherein the waste air opening lies near the access opening, behind the rear side, facing away from the air passage opening, of the air guide plate.

33. (new) The assembly space of claim 32, further comprising a space bottom and space walls which project from the space bottom and of which one space wall is formed by the dashboard and the opposite space wall is formed by a partition, running transversely in the engine space, for partitioning off the engine space.

34. (new) The assembly space of claim 33, comprising a plastic box closed on all sides and open at the top.

35. (new) The assembly space of claim 34, wherein a water outflow is provided in the bottom of the plastic box.